Increase in Economic Offences

2965. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:
SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been considerable increase in the economic offences during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the plans drawn up by Government to minimise these offences and to bring to took the culprists?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) On the basis of information available with the enforcement agencies, the Government have noticed some increase in the incidence of economic offences during the last three years.

(b) With a view to curb such offences, tax laws and related procedures have been simplified and rationalised. At the same time, enforcement agencies have been revamped and asked to maintain strict vigil and step up their preventive operations.

Proposal of Maharashtra Government to start a new airlines

2966. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given its clearance to the proposal of Maharashtra State Government to start new State-airlines i.e. Maharashtra airways;

(b) if so, which are the main take-off and lending stations on the Maharashtra airways map; and

(c) the terms of the agreement entered into with Government of Maharashtra in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Government of Maharashtra has no plans to start any airline. However the State Industrial and Investment Corporation of Maharashtra Limited has taken equity in Span Aviation India Limited - an existing Air Taxi Operator.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Relaxation of ECB norms for Telecom and Oil sector firms

2967. SHRI SATISH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the newsitem appearing in The Times of India of 21st June, 1996, under the caption "ECB norms relaxed for telecom and oil sector firms"; and

(b) if so, the details of the guidelines issued in this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have issued revised External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) Guidelines through a Press Release dated June 19, 1996, which, interalia, have permitted Corporates engaged in the infrastructure projects in Telecommunications and Oil Exploration and Development (excluding refining) to raise ECB at a minimum average maturity of 5 years even for borrowings exceeding USD 15 million equivalent. In addition, end-use of ECB in the Power, Railways and Telecommunications Sectors can be for project-related Rupee expenditure, including licence fees. Moreover, the maximum amount under the USD 1 million Scheme has been raised to USD 3 million, and exporters have been permitted to raise ECB to the extent of USD 15 million or the annual average exports during the previous 3 years, whichever is lower, for meeting project-related Rupee expenditure. Also, all infrastructure and greenfield projects have been permitted to avail ECB upto 35% of project cost.

Setting up of New Medical Colleges by the Central and State Governments

2968. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) how many new medical colleges have been set up by the Central and State Governments during the last three years in the country;

(b) reasons for not starting new medical

colleges by the State Governments and the Central Government to meet the increased demand of doctors in the country;

(c) whether the policy of the Central Government and State Governments is to depend on private medical colleges for medical education; and

(d) if not, what steps Government propose to take for setting up new medical colleges in government sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) Nine medical colleges have been permitted to be set up in the country including two Govt. medical colleges in the State of Gujarat during the last three years.

(b) to (d) There is no proposal to set up new medical colleges by the Central Govt. As per information available, the doctor-population ratio comes to about 1:2200. However, taking into account the availability of registered medical practitioners from other systems of medicine like Ayurveda, Homoeopathy, Unani etc. numbering to 5.6 lakhs the ratio comes to about 1:950.

This figure compares favourably with a number of developing and other middle grouped countries of the world. Applications seeking permission of the Central Govt. for setting up new medical colleges are considered under the provisions of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 as amended.

Development of Buddhist sites in Bodh Gaya for Tourism

2969. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by Government for development of Buddhist sites particularly Bodh Gaya for tourism;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken adequate steps to popularise these sites to attract tourists; and

(c) what is the number of tourists that have visited these sites in the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA): (a) The Government of India has signed two soft term loan agreements with the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund, Japan for the development of infrastructure in the Buddhist circuit, the details of which are as follows:--

(i) 7.76 Billion Yen for infrastructural development along identified Buddhist circuits in U.P. & Bihar including Bodhgaya.

(ii) 3.75 Billion Japanese Yen for conservation and tourism development plan for Ajanta & Ellora in Maharashtra.

In addition, the Department of Tourism, Govt. of India has sanctioned the following schemes /projects for development of tourist facilities in Budhgaya:

Name of the Project	Year of Sanctioned	Amount Sanctioned (Rs. in Lakhs)
Toilet and drinking water facilities	1985-86	1.50
Cafeteria at Bodhgaya	1990-91	7.84
Public conveniences at Bodhgaya	1990-91	2.87
Tourist reception centre at Bodhgaya	1992-93	20.55

(b) Yes, Sir. Adequate publicity and marketing initiatives have been taken by Govt. to popularise the sites.

(c) As per information available from the State Governments, the number of tourists who stayed in the Buddhist centres in U.P. & Bihar during 1994 are as follows:

	1994	
	Indian	Foreigner
Uttar Pradesh		
Sarnath	1196	2431
Kushinagar	787	4242
Bihar		
Vaishali	7018	2316
Nalanda	53753	317
Rajgir	991245	5863
Bodhgaya	904752	17141